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ABSTRACT

This booklet provides information so that teachers can prepare their grade 5 and above students for a visit to the Cape Cod National Seashore historic site. Pilgrims on the Mayflower landed here in 1620. The booklet contains pre-visit, on site, and post-visit activities, along with a list of educational objectives and materials needed. It also presents historical background information, which portrays portrays the Pilgrims as "a small group of people who made a great impact on world history." The booklet also reproduces the Mayflower Compact, the testament signed by the male members of the colony. Quotes from Governor William Bradford are included, as is a "Pilgrim Study Sheet." (BT)

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1998

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THE MAYFLOWER LANDED HERE!

OBJECTIVES:

- Recall circumstances that led to the Pilgrims leaving England
- Explain the significance of the Mayflower Compact
- Provide examples for decision-making and self-governing processes
- Compare governmental and social factors, 1620 vs. today.

GRADE/SKILL LEVEL:

Adaptable to grade 5 and beyond.

MATERIALS:

- Student Reader Sheet: Pilgrims Come To Cape Cod
- Mayflower Compact
- Poster paper, markers
- Copies of other selected government documents
- Guide's Guide to Cape Cod National Seashore, Pilgrim sections

BACKGROUND:

The Pilgrims were a small group of people who made a great impact on world history. Their story begins in England, sometime after King Henry VIII started the Independent Church of England, also known as the Anglican or Episcopal Church. Most of the countries surrounding England did not agree with the King's decision. Many people in England did not agree either. Some wanted the Anglican Church to be more like the old Catholic church. Others wanted it to be even more plain and to rely more on Bible teachings than on ceremony.

In most European countries in those days it was against the law to worship differently than the manner the official church of that country prescribed. There was no such thing as freedom of religion, or even democracy for that matter. Governments were usually ruled by a monarch (a king or queen), who had the power to decide how every subject should think, act or believe. People who didn't were often put in prison, and sometimes even killed.

Near the end of the 1500s, a number of groups began to form in England with renewed interest in trying to establish different church practices. One of these groups was called "Puritans" because its members wanted to make the existing Anglican Church more "pure" and simple. Others were called "Separatist" because they wanted to become completely separate from the official Church of England. The Pilgrims, who believed they should be allowed to select their own church leaders and ministers, were considered to be Separatists, and were often punished severely for this.

As different kings and queens took over ruling England throughout this period, different ideas about religious practices prevailed. When James became king, the Pilgrims thought they might finally be able to ask for permission to set up their own church. But the King was unclear, and the Pilgrims decided to leave England and move to Holland where freedom of religion was accepted.

After several years of living in Holland, however, the Pilgrims found that they were unhappy. They still felt they were English, but their children were adapting to Dutch ways and wanted to speak the language of their new country. Their leaders, William Bradford, Rev. John Robinson and several others worked out a plan to move the entire Pilgrim church group to America, where they could still be English. But it was too difficult and too expensive to move everyone at once.

The trip was difficult to organize. In addition to the Pilgrims, it was necessary to include around 50 other English people to pay for the ship and supplies. Members of the Pilgrim church were called "Saints" while the others were called "Strangers." Finally, after many setbacks, the Mayflower left for America on September 6, 1620. The trip across the ocean was rough and uncomfortable for the 101 passengers, but what they were doing would become an important piece of history.

On November 11, 1620, the Pilgrims got their first look at the New World when they saw Cape Cod. The Pilgrim group had permission to settle in the northern part of Virginia, which in those days reached to present-day New York. When the Mayflower turned south, however, it ran into rough, shallow waters and was in danger of sinking. It was quickly decided to head back to the deeper, safer waters off the tip of Cape Cod. But now a decision had to be made: was this where they should stay?

The next thing that happened was very important indeed. Since Cape Cod was outside the area they were supposed to settle within, the group agreed to write a "compact" or "self-governing" agreement. This agreement became known as the *Mayflower Compact*. It called for the election of a Governor from amongst the members of their group (something they were already comfortable with from their church practices). This became the first act of self-government in the New World.

ACTIVITIES:

Pre-visit:

- Have students read "The Pilgrims Come To Cape Cod" sheet, and other materials on the Pilgrims.
- Orally present or read accounts of the circumstances preceding the writing of the *Mayflower Compact* (the Pilgrim's original authorization to settle in Virginia not New England, philosophical differences between "Saints" and "Strangers", and the need to stay together under a common leadership to assure chances for survival).
- Pass out copies of the *Mayflower Compact*. Have students read the document and mark the sections that seem "wrong" or do not make sense. Encourage students to write their own interpretatiohs. Compare this with historians' interpretations.

On Site:

- Visit the Old Cove Burying Ground off of Route 6 in Eastham. Look for the original three Mayflower passengers. Make notes on other old settlers such as John Doane and Rev. Treat. (Note: grave rubbings are prohibited by the Town of Eastham at this cemetary).
- Visit the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown.
- Visit Plymouth Plantation and the Mayflower II during your trip.
- Look for Pilgrim and Native American names on road signs etc. during your trip.

Post Visit:

- Compare the *Mayflower Compact* with contemporary political documents (Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc.). Note specific and blatant differences, for example emphasis on the King, and no signatures of women. Suggest reasons for these differences. Discuss the need to update ruling documents, yet keep them intact enough to still be useful.

THE PILGRIMS COME TO CAPE COD

Student Information Sheet

The Pilgrims were a small group of people who made a great impact on world history. Their story begins in England, sometime after King Henry VIII started the independent Church of England, also known as the Anglican or Episcopal Church. Most of the countries surrounding England did not agree with the King's decision; many people in England did not agree either. Some wanted the Anglican Church to be more like their former Catholic Church. Others wanted it to be even plainer and rely more on Bible teachings than on ceremony.

Near the end of the 1500s, a number of groups began to form to try to establish different church practices in England. One of these groups was called "Puritans" because its members wanted to make the existing Anglican church more "pure" and simple. Others were called "Separatist" because they wanted to become completely separate from the official Church of England. The Pilgrims, who believed that they should be allowed to select their own church leaders and ministers, were called Separatists and were often severely punished for this.

As different Kings and Queens became rulers during this period, different ideas about religious practices prevailed. When James became king, the Pilgrims thought they might finally be able to ask for permission to establish their own church. But King James was unclear in his answer, and the Pilgrims decided to leave England for Holland, where freedom of religion was accepted.

After several years in Holland, the Pilgrims found that they were unhappy. They still felt they were English, but their children were adapting to Dutch ways and wanted to speak the language of their new country. The leaders of the Pilgrim group, William Bradford, the Rev. John Robinson and several others worked out a plan to move the entire Pilgrim group to America where they could be free to establish their own church but still be English. It was too expensive and difficult to move everyone at once, but they began to organize the trip. In addition to the Pilgrims, it was necessary to include about 50 other English people who wanted to go to America and would help to pay for the ship and supplies. The original Pilgrim church members called themselves "Saints" and called the others "Strangers." Finally, after many setbacks, the *Mayflower* left for America on September 6th, 1620. The trip across the ocean was rough and uncomfortable for the 101 passengers, but they sensed what they were doing was an important piece of history.

On November 11, 1620, the Pilgrims got their first look at the New World when they saw Cape Cod. They had permission to settle in the northern part of Virginia, which in those days reached to present-day New York. When the *Mayflower* turned south, however, it ran into rough, shallow waters and was in danger of sinking. It was quickly decided to head back to the deeper, safer waters off the northern tip of Cape Cod. Now the decision had to be made: was this where they should stay?

The next thing that happened was very important indeed. Since Cape Cod was outside the area where they had permission to settle, the group agreed to write a "compact" or self-governing agreement. This agreement became known as the *Mayflower Compact*, and was the first act of self-government in the New World. It called for the election of a Governor from amongst the members of their group, something they were already comfortable with from their church practice of naming their own leaders.

After signing the Mayflower Compact, the Pilgrims decided to look over Cape Cod as a place to settle. They sent out three separate "discovery" expeditions to see what the area had to offer. During these expeditions they found their first fresh water, took some Indian corn, and almost had a battle (called the First Encounter) with some native warriors. Cape Cod had many good features, but after a month of searching, it was decided they should settle in Plymouth.

At Plymouth the settlement only grew after experiencing many hardships. Almost half the group died during the first winter. Supplies were low, and when new settlers arrived that made sharing things even harder. One of the most beneficial events for the Pilgrims during this period was their good fortune in meeting and becoming friends with two remarkable Native Americans, Samoset and Squanto. Both could speak English, and Squanto had even lived in England for a time. Squanto had faced many sad things in his life, and it was said that he and the Pilgrims joyfully "adopted" each other. Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn, placing small fish called herring next to the seeds. He also helped them establish peace with the native tribes, a treaty which lasted some 60 years. He died on Cape Cod while trying to help the Pilgrims there.

As the Plymouth Colony grew, the Pilgrims found many reasons to return to Cape Cod. In the early days, it was to trade and to keep in touch with native tribal leaders. As new settlements were formed, some were also established on Cape Cod. Sandwich and Yarmouth came first, but one of the most important settlements was Nauset, later known as Eastham. In 1644 seven families received permission from Plymouth to re-settle in the Nauset area. Among them were Thomas Prence, who became Governor of the Colony, and three of the original passengers from the *Mayflower,* Constance Hopkins Snow, Giles Hopkins, and Joseph Rogers. In 24 years, many changes had occurred, it must have been fascinating for the three original *Mayflower* passengers to look out at the ocean from their Cape Cod homes and remember that it was the first land they saw on their pilgrimage to the New World — and to realize that they had become a part of history.

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

In the name of God, amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread soveign lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc.

Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of god,and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid: and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony: unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

In witness where we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod the *11th of November, in the year of the reign of our soveign lord, King James of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth,and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Ano.Dom. 1620.

John Carver
William Bradford
Edward Winslow
Willaim Brewster
Isaac Allerton
Myles Standish
John Alden
Samuel Fuller
Christopher Martin
William Mullins
William White

Richard Warren
John Howland
Stephen Hopkins
Edward Tilly
John Tilly
Francis Cooke
Thomas Rogers
Thomas Tinker
John Rigdale
Edward Fuller

John Turner
Francis Eaton
James Chilton
John Crackston
John Billington
Moses Fletcher
John Goodman
Degory Priest
Thomas Williams
Gilbert Winslow

Edmon Margeson
Peter Brown
Richard Britteridge
George Soule
Richard Clarke
Richard Gardiner
John Allerton
Thomas English
Edward Doty
Edward Leister

*old calendar

QUOTES FROM GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRADFORD

On November 9, 1620 on board the *Mayflower*, Bradford commented:

"...we espied land which we deemed to be Cape Cod, and so after was it proved."

Of his friend Squanto he wrote:

"...he was a special instrument sent by God..."

In the journal he wrote in his later years Bradford reflected on what had been accomplished:

"...as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shown to many, yea in some sort, to our whole nation."

PILGRIM STUDY SHEET

1. The Pilgrim story starts out in _____, after King Henry VIII broke away from the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Some people wanted to change the Church of England. The _____ wanted to make the existing church more simple, while the _____ wanted to become completely separate from the official Church of England.

3. The Pilgrims left England and settled in Holland, but found that they were unhappy because_____

4. In addition to Pilgrims, around 50 other English people they called _____ set sail on the *Mayflower* for America.

5. Cape Cod was outside the area where they were supposed to settle. What did the Pilgrims do?
_____

6. The Pilgrims explored Cape Cod before settling in Plymouth, but several families returned to Cape Cod to found the town of _____ in 1644.